

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****United States Patent and Trademark Office**Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. |
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|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|

09/552,383 04/19/00 WILLIS

S MICRON. 092CP

020995 MMC2/0620
KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP
620 NEWPORT CENTER DRIVE
SIXTEENTH FLOOR
NEWPORT BEACH CA 92660

EXAMINER

DIAZ, J

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
|----------|--------------|

2815

DATE MAILED:

06/20/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 09/552,383 | WILLIS, STEPHEN L. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | José R. Diaz | 2815 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-55 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claims 1-55 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 18) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 16) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 19) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 17) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 20) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-29, drawn to method, classified in class 438, subclass 1+.
- II. Claims 30-55, drawn to device, classified in class 257, subclass 774.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions II and I are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case, the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process. For example, forming a spin-on AZ Novolac-resin protective coating as a sacrificial layer and then, performing CMP.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to José R. Díaz whose telephone number is (703) 308-6078. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 5:00 Monday through Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eddie C. Lee can be reached on (703) 308-1690. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

JRD
June 18, 2001



EDDIE LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office
ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND COMMISSIONER
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If the communication you have received has any issues that raise concerns as to the quality and/or clarity of the action taken by the examiner, we invite you to contact the appropriate Supervisory Primary Examiner or one of our Quality Assurance Specialist. In addition to ensuring that the particular issue you have is addressed, this will help us identify areas for future training and improvement.

Quality Assurance Specialist:

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Paul Dzierzynski | 703/308-4822 |
| Don Hajec | 703/308-4075 |

If the contents of the attached correspondence have any clerical omissions, e.g., missing references or pages, illegible text, or any other clerical errors, please contact us at the number below as soon as possible. We will take appropriate action to expedite the necessary corrections. Also, if you have general questions concerning any application assigned to Technology Center 2800, including status inquiries, please contact our Customer Service Center. Of course, questions concerning the merits of the application must be directed to the Examiner in charge of the particular application, then to the supervisor if appropriate.

TC 2800Customer Service Center
Crystal Plaza 4-6th floor, D-corridor
Customer Service Representative are:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Linda M. Hodge-Taylor | CP-4-6-D32 |
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| Theodore Phillips | CP-4-6-D30 |

We are open to receive request for service in person, by phone 703/306-3329, or Fax 703/306-5515, from 8:30 am-5:00 p.m. each business day.

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Any matter not satisfactorily resolved by the listed resources should be brought to the attention of the appropriate Director listed below.

We appreciate your assistance in helping us help you.

Directors, Technology Center 2800
Semi-conductors, Electrical, Optical Systems & Components

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| <i>Rolf G. Hille</i> | 703/306-3431 | 2810/2820 |
| <i>Stewart J. Levy</i> | 703/308-0658 | 2830/2840 |
| <i>Howard N. Goldberg</i> | 703/306-3431 | 2850/2860 |
| <i>Janice A. Falcone</i> | 709/308-0530 | 2870/2880 |